

## MD ARMY GUARD AVIATION TO THE RESCUE

page 8



*Fox 45's Jennifer Gilbert gets a firsthand look at Maryland Army National Guard basket training.* Photo by Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt, MDNG Public Affairs

## Air Guard Security Forces Deploy

By Staff Sgt. David Speicher,  
175th Wing Public Affairs, MDANG

The Airmen received the call on Jan. 20 and by daybreak two days later, they had departed on the first leg of a journey that would take them to Iraq.

The Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Security Forces Squadron provides base security at Warfield Air National Guard Base. Their mission: to defend and protect the base and its people and assist the local community. Now, once again, they have been called to duty overseas.

*Continued on page 3*

## In This Issue...

- ★ Maryland Infantry Return From Iraq (page 4)
- ★ MD Assists Bosnians With HAZMAT Training (page 5)
- ★ Preparing For Hurricanes (page 6)
- ★ Civil Air Patrol Works With MilDep (page 12)

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor



Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor



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Governor

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Lt. Governor

**Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill**  
Adjutant General

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

We are now moving into the summer season, which will prove to be a very busy time for the Department both here at home and abroad. Our continued support to the Global War on Terror while transforming into a more ready and relevant force is unprecedented. The staff is working on updating our Joint Operations Plan to insure that we provide the level of security for the citizens of Maryland.

June 1st is the start of Hurricane Season for Mid-Atlantic states. Since 1996, Maryland has been impacted by hurricane remnants every three to five years. Maryland may be back in the bull's eye this year. The last storm, which impacted Maryland, was Tropical Storm Isabel in 2003. While MEMA is working to assist state and local agencies with their hurricane preparation, we as individuals have to prepare ourselves for a hurricane or tropical storm. There is information in this issue, which will be useful.

We welcome home Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry. They have returned after serving a year in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During part of their tour, the unit actively hunted insurgents. The unit also provided security for critical supplies from Jordan and worked to secure Iraq's border with Syria. Their service was long and distinguished and I am happy to have them home with their families.

Brigadier General Leacock and more than 260 Maryland Army National Guard soldiers are serving our country as part of the Task Force guarding the captured terrorists in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Please include them in your thoughts and prayers for a successful mission and safe return.

The 175th Medical Group of the Maryland Air National Guard is in Bosnia providing medical care to Bosnians living in remote areas, many of whom have never seen a doctor. A contingent of civilian health care professionals, organized by the Maryland Defense Force has joined them in this noble effort.

Summer also is vacation season. With more traffic on the roads during this time means a greater risk of accidents causing injuries and deaths. Members of the Department need to take all precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones and come home safely. I hope that everyone has a safe enjoyable summer. God-speed.

Respectfully,

Bruce F. Tuxill  
Major General, MDANG  
The Adjutant General

Fifth Regiment Armory Baltimore, Maryland 21201

## Mil Dep No Grinch

The Maryland Military Department (MMD) recently made a donation to Santa Claus Anonymous. On Mar. 24 Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Wilson J. Thornton, Jr. and Col. (Ret.) Rocky Templon presented Santa Claus Anonymous President Pete Kochanski with a check for \$687. The MMD began its fund drive for Santa Claus Anonymous in October 2005 and has been making an annual donation to the organization since 1993.

Founded in 1934 by former Baltimore mayor, Theodore R. McKeldin, Santa Claus Anonymous is a unique volunteer non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Each year, keenly aware of the thousands of children in the Baltimore metropolitan area who go without presents at holiday time, the organization raises money to give every child a Christmas.

The MMD's donation will go towards Santa Claus Anonymous' 2006 goal of raising \$300,000 for their cause.



(Left to right) Col. (Ret.) Rocky Templon, Pete Kochanski and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Wilson J. Thornton, Jr.



# Air Guard Security

*Continued from page 1*

As the Global War on Terrorism has progressed, security forces units, including the 175th, have been amongst the most heavily tasked in the Air National Guard.

Despite this, when a short-notice deployment tasking came down recently, there were more than twice as many volunteers as there were positions to fill. In all, 28 Airmen volunteered to be part of the 13-member team.

"When the Secretary of Defense mobilizes forces in support of the Global War on Terrorism, the Maryland Air National Guard will step forward every time, just like this team of 13 elite security forces is doing now," said Brig. Gen. Guy M. Walsh, 175th Wing commander. "In the tradition of the Maryland National Guard, these guys are stepping up and making it happen. I am proud of each and every one of them."

Walsh explained why deployments sometimes occur outside the normal Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation.

"The Air Expeditionary Force process normally provides stability and sufficient advance notice to put the right forces in the right places at the right time," he said. "Unfortunately, high operational tempo and shortfalls in security forces manpower throughout all of our military services continue to challenge our otherwise successful AEF process."

Walsh said that the Guard is mindful of the impact such deployments have on families and employers.

"We continue to meet with families and engage employers who are hit the hardest so they know we understand the challenges they face in dealing with short-notice and no-notice mobilizations," he said.



*Security forces troops training at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. emerge from the gas chamber during Expeditionary Readiness Training prior to deploying to Iraq. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force*

The deploying troops received additional highly specialized training and equipment prior to deploying to Iraq to ensure their ability to accomplish the mission, according to Walsh.

The contingent was first sent to Creech Air Force Base, Nev. for Expeditionary Readiness Training, or "ExpeRT"

in Air Force lingo. The Maryland Air National Guard members spent more than two weeks practicing their skills in the hills near Las Vegas, Nev.

Whenever the "bad guys," an aggressor team trying to infiltrate a U.S. airbase, ran for the high ground, the team led by Tech. Sgt. James R. White pursued them relentlessly. The cadre eventually came to refer to the security forces from Maryland as the "Highlanders."

During one field training exercise, the Marylanders went so far as to take the same hill twice in order to secure their objective, White said. As a result the team was allowed to christen that particular piece of real estate "Crab Hill" in honor of their home state.

"We went all out," White said. "We played [the exercise] like it was real life."

"They played hard and kept the initiative," said Maj. Steven Benden, 175th Security Forces Squadron commander. He visited his troops during the training and was impressed with the realism of the scenarios that they had encountered. "They all volunteered for this mission and they all have their heads in the game."

Staff Sgt. Olen D. Smith III, a security forces Airmen and a recent Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year award winner, found the desert training invaluable. He said that training cadre had already served in Iraq and used that experience to provide feedback to the students.

"The cadre here at ExpeRT training have prepared us well for our mission," White said. "We are itching to go and get started."

## Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,200 members of the Maryland National Guard have been mobilized both here at home and around the world.

These Maryland Guardsmen leave not only families, but also civilian employers as well when called to duty to serve in the Global War on Terrorism. To help all Guardsmen, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was established in 1972.

ESGR is a Department of Defense organization created to provide education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of the National Guard

and Reserves.

The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves as defined by employer commitment to employee military service.

"In Maryland, our mission is to increase the support of the Guard and Reserves by employers around the state," said Boyd M. Cook, chairman of the Maryland Committee of ESGR.

Questions and concerns related to military service arise even with the best communication and partnership between

employers and their employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserves. The most common employer concerns are predictability of mobilization, frequency and duration of military service and adequate advance notice of time away from work.

Employer outreach programs conducted by ESGR promote understanding of Guard and Reserve service; encourage human resource policies and practices favorable to Guard and Reserve service; and encourage "above and beyond" benefits exceeding requirements.

Some employer outreach programs

*Continued on page 5*



# Army Guard Infantry Unit Returns From Iraq

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment returned to Maryland May 11, after serving a year in Iraq. Mobilizing in January 2005, the unit proceeded to Ft. Stewart, Ga. where it linked up with the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team. The Brigade was outfitted with equipment and proceeded to the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, Ca. where it underwent rigorous training in preparation for their deployment. Upon completion they proceeded back to Georgia and finally deployed to Iraq in May 2005.

While in Iraq the unit performed a variety of missions to include raids, ambushes, traffic control points, combat logistical patrols, convoy security, air assaults and cordon and search missions.

On May 13 the unit was honored for its service with a Freedom Salute Ceremony. During the ceremony six Bravo Company Soldiers received Army Commendation Medals, three with bronze "V's" for valor, recognizing "acts of combat heroism." Nine Soldiers received Purple Hearts.

On June 6, 1944 Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment stormed the beaches of Normandy in sup-



*Pfc. Christopher Clayton is reunited with family after returning from a year-long deployment to Iraq.* Photo by W.O.C. William Fearington

port of the allied invasion and liberation of Nazi held Europe. On June 6, 2005, Bravo Company conducted its first combat mission in Iraq, exactly 61 years after the historic beach landing.



*The Soldiers of Bravo Company are assembled for their Freedom Salute Ceremony held on May 13 at the University of Maryland, College Park.* Photo by Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt



*Spc. Michael Haney is pinned with the Purple Heart during the company's Freedom Salute Ceremony.* Photo by Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt



# MD Assists Bosnians with Disaster Training

Several Marylanders traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) recently where they presented hazardous material and disaster management techniques to their military and civilian counterparts. Maryland Army National Guard (MDARNG) members Maj. Chris Cole and Maj. George Spence along with Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Alan Williams were in the Balkans April 1 through April 8 conducting the training.

Thirty-one Bosnian civilians and military personnel attended the training which included two practical exercises. Prior to the team's departure, their Bosnian counterparts provided them with a list of training objectives allowing the three instructors to tailor their training to their counterparts needs. Training examples incorporated hurricane Katrina response efforts and emergency response to Baltimore's 2001 Howard Street tunnel fire.

Cole, who served as team leader for the trip, has 15 years experience of environmental management with the MDARNG. Spence is currently deputy commander of the MDARNG's 32nd Civil



*Disaster training participants take time out from training for a class photo.*

Support Team while Williams is the administrator for the MDE's Emergency Response and Planning Program.

The training was conducted through Maryland's State Partnership Program with BiH which was established in 2003.

The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) links U.S. states with partner countries for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of the Combatant Commander. The program's goals reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard using the unique civil-military nature of the Guard to interact with both active and reserve forces of foreign coun-

tries. The State Partners actively participate in a host of engagement activities ranging from bilateral familiarization and could lead to training exercises opportunities, fellowship-style internships, and civic leader visits and medical events. All activities are coordinated through the Theater Combatant Commander and the U.S. Ambassadors' country teams, and other agencies as appropriate, to ensure that National Guard support is tailored to meet both U.S. and country objectives.

Maryland also has a State Partnership Program with Estonia. It was established in 1993.

## Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

*Continued from page 3*

include:

- "Briefings With the Boss" provides an informal forum in which local employers, unit commanders, ESGR members and community leaders meet to network and discuss issues.
- "Bosslifts" transport employers and supervisors to military training sites where they observe National Guard and Reserve members in training.
- The "Statement of Support" program notes compliance with existing legal employment protections for Guard and Reserve members. ESGR also sponsors an awards program designed to recognize employers for outstanding employment policies and practices.

For more information on the Maryland Guard's ESGR Program, visit [mdesgr.org](http://mdesgr.org)



*Spc. Fontanez of the 115th Infantry talks an employer of a Maryland National Guardsman through operation of the M2 machinegun during an ESGR sponsored Bosslift to the unit's 2005 annual training at Ft. Bragg, N.C.*



# Get Prepared for Hurricanes

**H**urricane season began June 1 and lasts until the end of November.

When the winds of a tropical storm reach a constant 74 miles per hour, it is called a hurricane. Both hurricanes and tropical storms are characterized by torrential rain, high winds and storm surges as the storms approach land. More dangerous than the high winds is "storm surge"...a dome of ocean water that can be as high as 20 feet at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide. The surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore. Most of the deaths associated with cyclone-type storms are flood-related. Freshwater inland flooding is a common occurrence with hurricanes and tropical storms. Torrential rains can cause extensive urban and river flooding. In addition to flood and wind damage, hurricanes and tropical storms are known to cause mudslides, landslides and spawn thunderstorms and tornadoes.

U.S. hurricane warning systems have provided adequate time for people on barrier islands to move inland when hurricanes approach.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is able to predict a target area for a hurricane or tropical storm within five days of landfall. The NWS issues watches and warnings for areas where these storms are expected to come ashore as follows:

- A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24 to 36 hours
- A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less

## BEFORE THE HURRICANE OR TROPICAL STORM ARRIVES

- ★ Develop a family disaster and evacuation plan.
- ★ Learn about your community's risk from hurricanes... contact your local emergency management office, local NWS office or the local American Red Cross chapter for more information. Determine whether you live in an area prone to flooding during hurricanes or heavy rain...contact the local emergency management office or the local planning and zoning office.
- ★ Consider purchasing flood insurance...you do not need to live in a flood plain to purchase flood insurance and most homeowners insur-

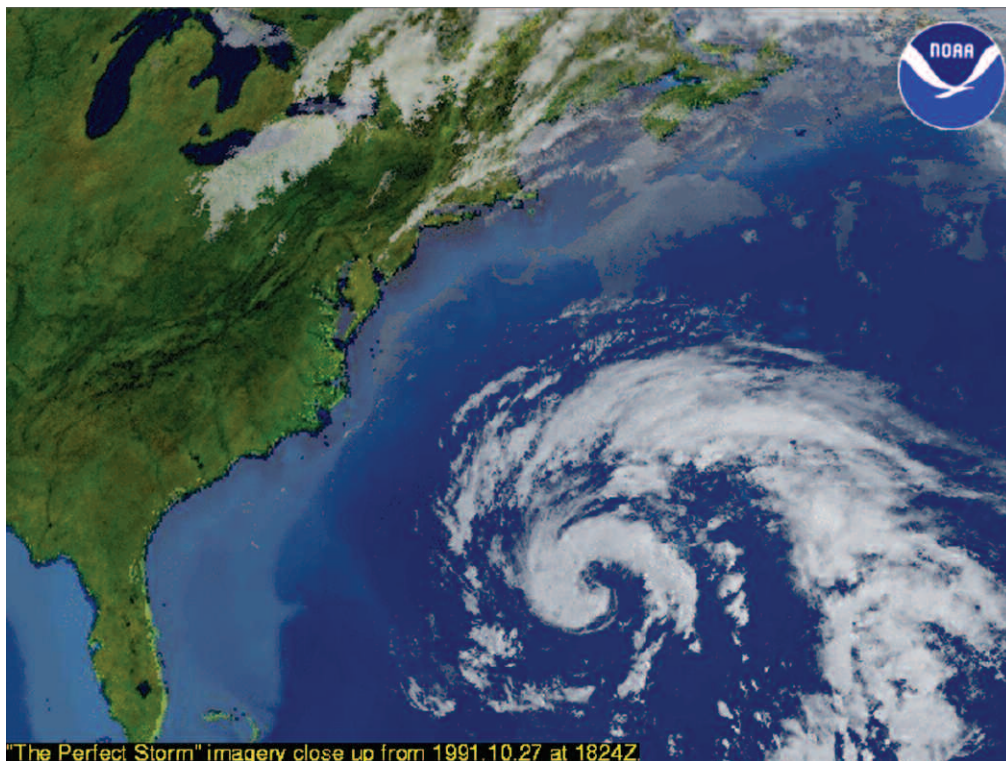


Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ance policies will not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance policies typically do not take effect until 30 days after the policy premium is paid. Make sure the policy covers both structure and contents.

- ★ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- ★ Remove any debris or loose items in your yard...they could become projectiles in a high wind.
- ★ Well ahead of time, purchase other items needed to board up windows and protect your home.
- ★ Install permanent hurricane shutters or be prepared to cover windows and doors with plywood. Most homes destroyed during hurricanes had no window protection as the wind entered the structure lifting the roof and collapsing the walls.
- ★ Turn the refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings and open only when absolutely necessary. If you anticipate a long departure, remove food from your refrigerator that might spoil when electric power is lost.
- ★ Have an engineer check your home and advise about ways to make the structure more resistant to hurricane winds.
- ★ If you live in a flood plain or your

home is prone to flooding, follow the flood preparedness precautions found on MEMA's web site at [mema.state.md.us](http://mema.state.md.us)

- ★ If a Hurricane Watch is announced, make sure your gas tank is full.
- ★ If you live in a manufactured home (trailer), check and reinforce the tie downs.

## DURING THE HURRICANE OR TROPICAL STORM

- ★ Continue listening regularly to a NOAA Weather Radio, or local radio or television for updated information.
- ★ Listen to the advice of local officials and evacuate if they tell you to.
- ★ If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors and stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors, even if they are covered.
- ★ Close all interior doors...secure and brace external doors.
- ★ Have a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy.
- ★ If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce the power surge when electrical power is restored.
- ★ Be aware that the calm eye of the storm is deceptive...the storm is not over.

- ★ Continue monitoring local radio or television stations.
- ★ Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to utility companies immediately.
- ★ Hurricanes often knock out electricity...people who are impatient for the return of electrical power often purchase gasoline-powered electric generators and operate them in their basements and garages without proper ventilation...this puts the occupants in danger of carbon monoxide poisoning. These carbon-monoxide deaths and injuries are avoidable.

- Look for fire hazards.
- Look for gas leaks.
- Look for electrical system damage.

- ★ Take pictures of the damage, both of the building and its contents for insurance claims.
- ★ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

## Conference Takes on Severe Storms

After being held for several years at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown, Md. the event was moved to a new venue to accommodate the ever-increasing crowds. Anticipated interest in the wake of last year's devastating Gulf Coast storms, in addition to this year's stellar line-up, led organizers to move the event.

The conference closed with a discussion of severe storm forecasting from Dave Manning of the National Weather Service office in Sterling, Va. and meteorologist

The way has changed...and so has MEMA.

[www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us)

The Maryland Joint Operations Center delivers vital information to decision-makers during emergencies - 24/7

Providing vital infrastructure information for first responders and emergency planners

**Hurricane Names**

2005	2006	2007
Wilma	Alberto	Andrea
Dean	Dean	Betty
Emily	Chris	Charal
Ernesto	Dorothy	Dean
Felix	Ernesto	Diego
Gordon	Florence	Felix
Hector	Gordon	Gabrielle
Isaac	Hector	Ismael
José	Isaac	Ismael
Katrina	José	Ismael
Lowell	Katrina	Ismael
Michael	Lowell	Ismael
Natasha	Michael	Ismael
Ophelia	Natasha	Ismael
Philip	Ophelia	Ismael
Rita	Philip	Ismael
Stan	Rita	Ismael
Tammy	Stan	Ismael
Vince	Tammy	Ismael
Willie	Vince	Ismael
Willie	Willie	Ismael

MEMA provides first responders with real-time information and interoperable communications in emergencies, an act of nature or terrorism

The National Incident Management System establishes a US-based standard effective

24/7

MEMA also announced that it was partnering with WeatherBug, a forecasting service, to provide software to every school in the state that would provide administrators with real-time severe weather alerts.



# MD Army Guard Aviation Preps for Hurricane Season

By Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt, MDNG Public Affairs

With the 2006 hurricane season just around the corner, the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade isn't waiting for the first Atlantic storm to develop before it begins preparing to help the citizens of Maryland, and possibly any of the other 53 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

One of the Brigade's units, the 1159th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance), conducted critical rescue hoist training Apr. 13-14 at a training site near the Maryland Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The 1159th Air Ambulance Detachment, which has six UH-60 Black Hawk Air Ambulance rescue hoist-equipped helicopters, is one of only four National Guard Air Ambulance units on the East Coast.

Col. Charles H. Schulze, Maryland's state Army aviation officer, has the unique challenge of ensuring aviation units in Maryland are afforded the opportunity to train for wartime missions as well as for state missions.

"The thing we're shooting for is to leverage capability unique to the National Guard and link that capability to highly

trained swift water and flood rescue teams in Maryland," said Schulze, who has worked full time for the Maryland Guard in aviation since 1989.

"Linking military and civilian fire department rescue capability carries out the brigade commander's (Col. Fritz W. Kirklighter's) intent of developing plans, capabilities and exercising skills that may be needed when the brigade responds to a domestic emergency," said Schulze.

According to National Guard officials, the Guard is most often the first military organization called upon to respond to natural disasters and other significant incidents.

"The National Guard saved the lives of more than 17,000 people in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and airlifted more than 88,000 to other locations," said Jack Harrison, a spokesperson for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

Schulze, who also is working to develop and strengthen relationships with other state agencies such as the Maryland State Police, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland State Swiftwater and Flood Response Association, said that partnerships with agencies like this are especially essential during the preparation and response phases of domestic emergencies.

"It's imperative that we train together so that in a life threatening situation, the military and civilian rescue effort can work together resulting in an effective and favorable outcome," said Schulze. "It's important to cultivate these relationships through the state government and the state emergency operations center so that we can be prepared to respond to swift water and flood emergencies here in Maryland - or elsewhere in the country."

Sgt. 1st Class Donald L. Claxton, Maryland's senior enlisted aviation trainer at the Army Aviation Support Facility agreed.

"That kind of mission is good for us," said Claxton. "We owe the citizens of Maryland our services. We have the equipment and they deserve use of it. That's the bottom line as far as I'm concerned."

Other than fire, floods are the most common and widespread of natural disasters. According to officials at the Maryland State Swiftwater and Flood Response Association, nearly 100 people die from flood

# MD GUARD / FIRE DEP. PREPARE FOR "BRUSH" WITH FIRE

Story and photos by W.O.C. William Fearington, MDNG Public Affairs



ABC 2 Reporter Sherrie Johnson is "rescued" during the basket training exercise. Photo by Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt

Continued on page 10



**M**aryland Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) in Edgewood, Md. and firefighters of Station 17 of the Baltimore County Fire Department collaborated to perform fire protection missions at the Loch Raven Reservoir in Towson, Md., on Mar. 28. The two organizations' efforts as a team will provide additional resources to protect and conserve the environment and property from the dangers of fire.

"It's the first time working together as a team," said Capt. Daniel Lemmon, D-shift team leader for Station 17. During training the firefighters plotted mock fire locations with a Global Positioning System (GPS), then relayed coordinates to the helicopter

crew, also equipped with a GPS system. The helicopter crew then dumped or sprayed water onto the mock fire location. The two agencies would use this same process during a real brush fire. "I think it's working great," said Lemmon.

"Our goal is to be able to assist in fire-fighting," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel B. Chapman of the 1159th. He trains the pilots to fly the Black Hawk helicopter with the water-filled bucket and perform emergency procedures. The crew chiefs are in charge of dispersing the thousands of pounds of water at the right location and the right time while communicating simultaneously with the cockpit and the fire department members on the ground.

"This allows us to support state agencies and take care of civilians," said Chapman. The unit currently has two 600 gallon buckets for Black Hawks or Chinook helicopters and two 300 gallon buckets for Huey helicopters.

"We really enjoy the training," said Col. Charles H. Schulze, state army aviation officer for the Mary-



*A MDARNG UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter tests its bucket over the Loch Raven Reservoir during water bucket training.*

land Army National Guard. "It's important to train because we may have to respond," said Schulze. "The training at Loch Raven Reservoir helps to workout any communication or standard operating procedure issues so we can be more effective."

The two organizations are planning more operations together for the future.

*Maryland Guardsmen Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Chapman (left) and Baltimore County Firefighter Capt. Daniel Lemmon (right) coordinate their efforts during the firefighting training exercise.*



*Baltimore County Firefighters and Maryland Guardsmen worked hand-in-hand during the joint training operation.*





# MD Army Guard Aviation Preps for Hurricane Season

*Continued from page 8*

related drownings in the United States each year.

According to Sgt. Nate L. Bieniek, a helicopter crew chief and hoist operator, this specialized mission requirement requires a coordinated effort from everyone involved in the rescue mission and a lot of communication.

"The biggest thing for us in the back [of the aircraft] is to make sure we don't slam someone back into the ground or snag them in the trees on the way up," said Bieniek who must constantly scan to make sure the pilots are not drifting and making sure the rescue cable isn't getting caught on anything.

"The things we're doing in the back may not be apparent to an outside observer," said Bieniek. "I'm constantly adjusting the slack in the cable or taking slack out so there is a little bit of maneuver room."

Each rescue helicopter hoist is equipped with 258 feet of rescue cable which is capable of lifting nearly 600 pounds.

"That cable is moving down at 250 feet per minute at high speed," said Claxton, "So at the bottom you have to stop it before you want it to stop because it takes about 5 or 10 feet to decelerate."

"It doesn't look complicated from outside the helicopter, but when you're actu-

ally working that hoist control, there are like 40 things going on at the same time," said Claxton.

Schulze is confident that the Maryland Guard is ready for any situation.

"The biggest lesson for everyone is an old lesson," said Schulze. "In a crisis you only rise to the level of your training."

A real life rescue hoist mission is high risk according to Claxton, but the members of the 1159th Air Ambulance Detachment are ready to assist the citizens of Maryland and elsewhere in the country whenever they are called.

"We've got the equipment, we've got the people, and we've got the resources. Let's use them," said Claxton.

## On Duty at Gitmo

*Reprinted from the April 14 edition of "The Wire", Joint Task Force Guantanamo's official weekly paper. Col. James Vandegrift, along with more than 230 Maryland Guard Soldiers, deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in February in support of the Global War on Terror. By Col. James Vandegrift, Maryland Army National Guard*

While news of last week's military commissions made headlines around the world, what happens behind the scenes is a story that needs to be told. Joint Task Force (JTF) Troopers are working diligently to ensure that the Office of Military Commissions can conduct full, fair and open proceedings.

As the officer-in-charge of the Office of Military Commissions, it is my job to coordinate JTF support of the commissions. As a professional soldier who has also had a career in civilian law enforcement, I have a unique appreciation for the hard work, discipline and coordination that go in to supporting courtroom proceedings.

During commissions, the days start early and go late. Nearly every organization within the JTF has a role in supporting the commissions process. The guard force has the most people involved in the effort. Security is a top priority, and the safe, orderly movement of all of the participants into a secure courtroom requires close coordination and precise timing.

All the parties involved – the prosecution, the defense, the accused, the courtroom staff, members of the press and non-governmental organizations in the audience – need to be mustered together, moved to the commissions building, cleared through security and directed to their seats.

The operations staff and the Joint Operations Center play a critical role in coordinating these movements. Through extensive training, drills and dress rehearsals, JTF troopers ensured that everyone was in place and ready to go when it was time for "gavel down."

The supply and communications staff also play a critical role. The defense, prosecution, presiding officer and commissions staff all require office space, telephones, computers, printers, office supplies, vehicles, food and berthing. Personnel staff ensure that we have the appropriate staff on hand, and intelligence staff members coordinate the movement of classified records needed for the proceedings.



**Col. James Vandegrift uncovers his unit's colors upon arrival at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in late February.** Photo by Spc. Seth Meyers, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs

News media from around the world are invited to view and report on the commissions. Troopers from the 305th Press Camp Headquarters ensure that members of the media – last week there were 22, there have been as many as 60 – have the support they need to do their job.

Through the words of reporters and the eyes of the courtroom sketch artist, the world gets a glimpse at what happens from gavel to gavel. Our support may not make the news, but it is absolutely vital to the process.

Thank you for your tireless efforts, your professionalism and your dedication to duty. America can be proud of the commissions process, and you can be proud of the work you do to make it happen. Honor Bound!



# Army Guard Recruiting Races Ahead

Story by Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt, MDNG Public Affairs

The Maryland National Guard recruiting and retention efforts are racing toward a fantastic finish this year with the help of some new and innovative recruiting and retention programs designed to appeal to just about every Soldier.

Just one example of this high speed innovation that is attracting new Soldiers

and retain experienced Soldiers a significant boost," said Preston, who is confident that these new approaches to marketing are the key to reaching Maryland's year-end recruiting goals.

The Guard NASCAR, which is seen regularly every Sunday afternoon by the second largest sports television audience in the land, next to the National Football League, finished second in the 2005 Nextel Cup points battle last year and has its sights set even higher in 2006.

Pvt. Aaron Garrison, a Maryland Army Guard Soldier who accompanied the No. 16 car in Harford said he loves seeing everyone's face light up the minute they see the car.

"Everyone loves it," said Garrison. "I get to answer questions about the car as well as questions about the National Guard."

Sgt. 1st Class John E. Greer, a full-time Maryland Guard recruiter based in Edgewood, has been trying out another innovative way to reach potential new Maryland Guard Soldiers by setting up a mall kiosk and talking to young potential Soldiers where they congregate with their friends.

"Friday and Saturday nights are the best with all the kids who are here in the food court," said Greer, who credits the mall kiosk with at least six new enlistments this year.

Also helping this year's recruiting mission is the new Guard Recruiting and Assistance Program (G-RAP).

Currently traditional Maryland Guard Soldiers and Airmen are eligible to voluntar-

ily receive specialized training to help them learn about the program and what it takes to become a National Guard recruiting assistant.

For each new Soldier or Airman who is successfully enlisted into the Maryland Guard, the recruiting assistant who helped bring in that Soldier or Airman receives a \$2,000 cash incentive.

By year's end, the Maryland Army National Guard hopes to have its ranks filled to more than 5,600 Soldiers, said Preston, who is confident that other states are having just as much success helping bring the overall number of Citizen-soldiers and Airmen in the entire National Guard nearly 450,000.

For more information about the G-RAP program visit the website at: [guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://guardrecruitingassistant.com)



(left to right) Maryland Guard Members Spc. Lorena Bigley, Pvt. Aaron Garrison, and Pvt. Melanie Clark assist with the National Guard's NASCAR, No. 16.

and Airmen to the Maryland Guard family is the red, white and blue National Guard NASCAR, No. 16, driven by Greg Biffle, which recently made a trip around the state, including a brief appearance at the Harford Mall on Apr. 4.

"The National Guard Race Team is, without question, showing those that may not know it that the National Guard is a top-quality organization with a unique identity within our community," said Lt. Col. Kevin L. Preston, director of the Maryland Army National Guard's recruiting and retention division.

"This is giving the Maryland Army National Guard's efforts to recruit new peo-



Sgt. 1st Class John E. Greer, a full-time Maryland Guard recruiter based in Edgewood, shows off the Maryland Guard's recruiting kiosk at the Harford Mall in Bel Air, Md.

## ChalleNGe Cadets support Living Flag Program

The cadets of the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy assisted the National Flag Day Foundation at the 23rd Annual Living American Flag program at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine on May 23.

They escorted VIPs, briefed students upon arrival, assisted in handing out placards used to form the Living American Flag and provided general support to the National Flag Day Foundation. In addition, the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Color Guard posted the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.

More than 3,000 elementary school students from Maryland converged upon Fort McHenry and formed the Living American Flag.

The day's events concluded at noon, and the cadets were able to relax and enjoy their lunch before returning to their campus on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

*Freestate ChalleNGe cadets present the Colors at the beginning of the National Flag Day Foundation's 23rd Annual Living American Flag program at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.*





# MD Guard Photographer Takes First Place

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy, member of the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (29th MPAD), for taking first place in the 2005 Military Photographer News Category of the Visual Information Awards Program.

"Everything came together for a second," said Soucy thinking back to when he took the photo. "At the time I didn't really think much of it," he admitted. Soucy, 29, is a full-time Intermediate Photojournalism Course instructor at Defense Information School, Ft. Meade and has been a member of the 29th MPAD since 1999.

The awards program is sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and is administered by the Commandant of the Defense Information School, with cooperation from national and local professional organizations.



*After the Flood - Soucy's Winning Photo*  
Taking a break from sorting through the damage left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Stacey Besselman stands on the front porch of her Jackson Barracks home, Saturday, October 1, 2005.

## Civil Air Patrol Works Hand in Hand with Guard

By 1st Lt. Steven Solomon, Maryland Wing, Civil Air Patrol

Members of the Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) assist in state-assigned missions with the Maryland Air and Army National Guard, including ongoing support with the dining hall, family day, welcome home ceremonies and special functions.

"I continue to be impressed by the professionalism our volunteer members display while working side by side with our Army and Air National Guard counterparts," said Capt. Joe Winter, the Maryland Wing's director of cadet programs. "The dedication of our members helps ease the stress of the guard members who are deployed all around the world."

Winter explained that Maryland Wing cadets especially enjoy working with the National Guard, because it exposes them to the military way of life.

"Our partnership with the Maryland Military Department (MMD) has led to numerous enlistments of our cadet members in both the Air and Army National Guard," Winter said. "Our cadets look up to our hometown heroes and often report back to us that they were motivated to join the Guard by the experience they received while working alongside members of the Guard and interacting with them during our annual Tri-Wing Cadet Encampment. Our partnership with the MMD should serve as a benchmark for CAP Wing and state guards throughout the country."

There are more than 1,300 members in the Maryland Wing, divided almost evenly between adults and teenagers. These members make-up the 20 CAP squadrons located throughout the state. Activities offered to cadets in Maryland include a glider academy, solo pilot school, an annual encampment, band and color guard.

Cadet and senior members of the Maryland Wing stand ready year-round to assist.

"Our senior and cadet members proudly volunteer countless hours to support our Air and Army National Guard members and they continue to stand ready for additional tasking while at the same time performing our numerous state, region and national missions tasked to us as CAP members in the Maryland Wing," Winter said.

The Civil Air Patrol, official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 57,000 members nationwide. CAP volunteers perform 95 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies.



*Maryland Civil Air Patrol cadets board a Maryland Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter for an orientation flight during a Civil Air Patrol Tri-Wing Encampment.*

Last fiscal year Maryland Wing senior members conducted 34 search and rescue missions as assigned by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va., receiving credit for 23 finds.

Within Maryland, senior members also patrol the bay for distressed boaters, monitor Bay Bridge traffic and assist the Maryland Department of Natural Resources with tracking wildlife.

More information about the Maryland Wing of CAP is available by visiting the Maryland Wing web site at [mdcap.org](http://mdcap.org)



# THE LECTERN

*This segment by Chap. (Col.) William S. Lee, JFHQ State Chaplain*

Three strands of rope woven together are many times stronger than three separate strands. So it is with the joint chaplain force of the Maryland Military Department. Chaplains and chaplain assistants of the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, and Maryland Defense Force combine to offer a ready force providing seamless religious coverage and spiritual support in the event of a terrorist act, natural disaster, civil disturbance, or other threat that calls for our response in support of a State or Homeland Defense/Homeland

Security mission.

Woven together with a common call to support the free exercise of religion rights for every Maryland Guard member, common training in crisis response, interoperability for State missions, and family support, and a common commitment to serve God, Guard and country our chaplains and chaplain assistants are a strong team spiritually ready to bring Guardsmen to God and God to Guardsmen in any situation.

From Katrina response to the conduct of Marriage Enrichment Weekends for Guard couples our joint chaplain

and chaplain assistant team promote spiritual fitness and readiness for Airmen, Soldiers and families.

We have openings for clergy who feel the desire to serve in the spiritual support and defense of State and Nation; just contact me, Chap. (Col.) William Sean Lee, the Joint Force Headquarters chaplain for information at 410-576-6124.

If you qualify you can be part of the team that keeps the Guard's spirit strong in war and peace!

## Historical Society is Driving Force Behind Preservation

*By 2nd Lt. Wayde R. Minami, MDNG Joint Force Headquarters Historian*

Poised atop a scissors-lift extended 15 feet into the air, Albert Schweitzer and Joseph Gutierrez used a mixture of careful planning and even more carefully applied muscle to free a 200-pound glass case – and the irreplaceable regimental flag mounted inside it – from the wall bracket that had held it for nearly half a century.

Although the two retired Maryland Army National Guard officers are both civilian employees at the Fifth Regiment Armory, that wasn't what brought them in to the armory on this particular Saturday in April.

Schweitzer and Gutierrez, along with a half-dozen other volunteers gathered by the Maryland Military Historical Society, were on hand because they saw a critical situation that needed to be addressed.

The society, which traces its origins to the Maryland National Guard Memor-

ial Library Committee established in 1973, has long been a driving force behind preserving the history of Maryland's men and women in uniform. Incorporated as a non-profit entity in 1982, it was the historical society that established the museum located in the Fifth Regiment Armory.

The society now works in partnership with the Maryland Center for Military History, which has taken over stewardship of the museum and is operated by the Maryland National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Historical Services Office.

"The purpose [of the society] has been to promote the Maryland military legacy throughout the state," said Brig. Gen. (Md.) I. John Vaccarino, president of the Maryland Military Historical Society. "The society is devoted to working with the State of Maryland, with the Military Department, and with the Center for Military History to further the recognition of the efforts and the exploits of Maryland militia through the years."

Through its board of directors, the society has traditionally sought to tap the expertise of community leaders, experts in historic preservation and Military Department officials with a passion for history.

The society recently created several categories of general membership, with annual dues starting at \$25. Higher levels of membership are available for those

who want to make a greater contribution. The society plans to use monies raised from its members to support future preservation efforts.

One example Vaccarino cited was the cost associated with preserving the historic flags in the Maryland National Guard collection.

A 2001 survey of the flag collection put the cost of conservation at more than \$330,000, not including the cost of storage cases. A \$50,000 grant provided the initial capital to begin tackling the project, but fell well short of the amount needed.

"The cases themselves cost us in excess of \$30,000," Vaccarino said. "The project is on-going."

For Gutierrez, being directly involved with preserving history was as much love as it was labor.

"I just find it fascinating and the people are great to work around," he said.

Gutierrez said that the best part was "being up there and looking at the flags close up – I've always seen them from the floor, but I've never been that close to them – and seeing the different colors that are on them that you really don't get from the floor."

*Applications for Maryland Historical Society Membership can be obtained at the JFHQ Historical Services Office, room D-9, Fifth Regiment Armory.*



*Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Pyle (right) and 2nd Lt. Wayde Minami prepare a flag for storage.*

# IN BRIEF ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## ***Maryland Defense Force Legislation Passed***

The Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 292 proposed by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. as part of his 2006 legislative package. The legislation provides employment protection for members of the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) whose members are volunteers, and may be called into State Active Service by the Governor in response to a natural or man-made disaster. There previously was no such employment protection for members of the MDDF.

The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita saw the first ever deployment of MDDF personnel outside of the State of Maryland as part of Operation Lifeline. Medical teams from the MDDF organized and operated six medical clinics in Jefferson Parrish, La. The teams consisted of physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals and provided first-rate care to the victims of the disaster. Before their tour of duty ended, the teams saw and treated almost 7,000 patients.

House Bill 1005 also was passed by the General Assembly and provides Workman's Compensation protection for members of the MDDF.

## ***Destination: Bosnia***

The 175th Medical Group, Maryland Air National Guard is conducting its annual training with a humanitarian mission focus to Bosnia in July. Over a period of about 30 days (divided in two 2-week deployments) Guard members assisted by volunteer civilian Maryland medical personnel will visit numerous towns to administer medical, dental and optometry treatment to Serbs, Bosnians and Croatians.

"People in some of these remote villages have never received medical treatment, have never seen a physician, dentist or eye doctor," said Lt. Col. Barbara Lee, health services administrator. "The people there are strong, they are survivors, but could still use some medical attention."

The medical personnel hope to treat patients as well as educate the people on disease prevention.

Deploying Guard personnel come from the medical group, security forces, services and public affairs. The Maryland Defense Force assisted in recruiting civilian medical personnel, who will accompany the Guard personnel to provide specialized medical care.

## ***Purple Heart Hall of Honor***



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is currently under construction in New York's Hudson River Valley at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site. Its mission is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across the generations in an attempt to ensure that all recipients are represented. Their stories will be preserved and shared through exhibits, live and videotaped interviews with the veterans themselves, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer program preserving the stories of each individual. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the first in the nation to recognize the more than 800,000

Americans wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Military.

The Hall is scheduled to open Nov. 11, 2006. Any servicemember who has earned a Purple Heart shall be afforded a place in the Hall. They simply need to send a copy of their DD 214 to the address below:

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor  
P.O. Box 207  
Vails Gate, NY 12584

For more information contact Michael J. Clark, project coordinator, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor at telephone 845-561-1765, or e-mail [michael.clark@oprhp.state.ny.us](mailto:michael.clark@oprhp.state.ny.us)

## ***DD-214 Online Access for Vets***

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov). This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes.

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the record center's mailroom processing time.





## ***New Nonprofit Helps Children of Those Deployed***

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, "Please don't send cookies, care packages or socks. Just help take care of our children."

A new nonprofit organization is dedicated to doing just that. Our Military Kids has been formed to provide support and recognition to the families of National Guard and Reserves by providing the financial resources to enable these children to participate in youth sports, fine arts and tutoring programs during the period of their parent's deployment.

"Although the government makes significant resources available to children of active duty military personnel at military installations, more than 60 percent of reserve families live more than 25 miles from the nearest post making these resources inaccessible to these children", explains organization co-founder Linda Davidson. "Our Military Kids was created to make certain that all children of military families get the support they urgently need while coping with the absence of a parent who is away serving our country."

Eligible families are encouraged to apply for funding by filling out an application available on the Our Military Kids web site or obtained from the national office. Corporations, foundations and individual donors are being sought to support this effort with tax-

deductible donations. Recently, the Boeing Company signed on as a sponsor.

Our Military Kids is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of Reserve and National Guard military children across the country. For more information or to make a donation, please go to [ourmilitarykids.org](http://ourmilitarykids.org) or call 703-734-6654. Our Military Kids is located at 6861 Elm Street, Suite 3F, McLean, Va. 22101.

## ***2006 Military Gala a Success***

The 2006 Military Gala took place in March. Five hundred and thirty people attended the Gala, which is an increase from the Gala in 2005. The National Guard Association of Maryland (NGAM) has sponsored the event since 2004 and is already planning for 2007.

NGAM is a professional military association formed in 1981 to represent active and retired officers of the Maryland National Guard. It tracks state and federal legislation of interest to members. The organization provides scholarship opportunities to members of the Maryland National Guard and their immediate families. In addition NGAM offers important life insurance programs to active members of the Maryland National Guard.

For more information visit their website at [ngam.net](http://ngam.net)



*Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, adjutant general for Maryland, take time out for a photo with several 2006 Gala attendees. Photo courtesy of Governor's Office*

## ***Partners in Care Additions***

The following congregations have signed-on with the Joint Forces Headquarters Chaplain's Office Partners in Care Program:

### **Brooklyn Church of God**

3800 9th St.  
Brooklyn, Md. 21225  
Rev. Billy Humphrey  
(POC) Ms. Lorraine "Sissy" Young  
410-355-6707  
[lorri123@hotmail.com](mailto:lorri123@hotmail.com)

### **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

109 Duke of Gloucester St.  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
Fr. John C. Kingsbury  
[stmaryschurch.org](http://stmaryschurch.org)  
(POC) Mark Maselli  
410-496-3806

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

4618 Black Rock Rd.  
Upperco, Md. 2115  
Rev. Jackson Day  
(POC) Rev. Jackson Day  
410-303-8213  
[jacksonday@comcast.net](mailto:jacksonday@comcast.net)  
[gbgm-umc.org/grace-hampstead](http://gbgm-umc.org/grace-hampstead)

## ***Common Access Card (CAC) Implementation***

The MDARNG is implementing CAC as the primary means to gain access to the Wide Area Network based on DoD Guidance. The primary reason is to improve security of the DoD Global Information Grid. Users are known to share passwords, but will not give their CAC and PIN. CAC will improve security as well as allow digital signatures. Bottom line, once fully deployed, CAC will secure our networks ensuring our enemies don't exploit our information systems.

# Soldiers Dedicate Battalion Area, Honor Fallen Comrades

*Story and photo by Sgt. Crystal Rothermel, 377th Theater Support Command (Fwd.) Public Affairs*

**T**hey made the ultimate sacrifice only months ago but comrades of the fallen gathered here Apr. 21 in a dedication ceremony, vowing never to forget.

The Soldiers of the 243rd Engineer Company, Maryland Army National Guard, together with their higher headquarters, the 180th Transportation Battalion, dedicated the battalion's motor pool area in the names of Sgt. Brian Conner, Sgt. Michael McMullen, Cpl. Bernard Ceo, and Cpl. Samuel Boswell, who died conducting convoy operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We know that each of these Soldiers was a shining light in their own way," said Capt. Eric Swanson, commander of the 243rd. "This is for them."

"Many of you were there when these Soldiers were killed," said Brig. Gen. Charles Barr, commanding general of the 143rd Transportation Command. "Many of you are their friends. That is the key, to not forget."

The plaque will remain until the 243rd completes its mission transporting supplies throughout Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and returns to Maryland.

"We all give our complete and utter regards to their families," said Pvt. David Perez, friend of the fallen. "They will never be forgotten."



*Sgt. 1st Class David Davis, 243rd Engineer Company, and Capt. Eric Swanson, company commander, unveil the motor pool dedication sign during a recent ceremony honoring Maryland National Guardsmen: Sgt. Brian Conner, Sgt. Michael McMullen, Cpl. Bernard Ceo, and Cpl. Samuel Boswell.*



Military Department  
Fifth Regiment Armory  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2288

Maryland Military Department

## Digest

The Maryland Military Department Digest is published quarterly by the Maryland Military Department via the Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office, 5th Regiment Armory, Baltimore, Md. 21201-2288. Articles or suggestions can be forwarded to the editor at [rick.roth@us.army.mil](mailto:rick.roth@us.army.mil) or call us at 410-576-6012.

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.**  
Governor

**Michael S. Steele**  
Lt. Governor

**Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill**  
The Adjutant General

**Rick Roth**  
Editor

## Numbers You Need

**Maryland National Guard Family Readiness Office**  
410-576-6019

**Department of Information Management Help Desk**  
410-702-9600

**Maryland National Guard Chaplain's Office**  
410-576-6124

**Red Cross**  
*Central Maryland Chapter*, Baltimore  
1-888-737-4306  
*Southern Maryland Chapter*, La Plata  
301-934-2066  
*Lower Shore Chapter*, Salisbury  
410-749-5331  
*Frederick County Chapter*, Walkersville  
301-662-5131

**Maryland Poison Control**  
1-800-222-1222

## Websites

**Maryland Government Website**  
[www.maryland.gov](http://www.maryland.gov)

**Maryland Military Department Website**  
[www.mdmildep.org](http://www.mdmildep.org)

**Maryland Emergency Management Agency**  
[www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us)

**Maryland State Employee Central Payroll Bureau**  
[www.compnet.comp.state.md.us/cpb](http://www.compnet.comp.state.md.us/cpb)